

received ergonovine, though in two patients focal coronary artery spasm developed without concomitant chest pain and in one patient mild esophageal dysmotility was noted.

In conclusion, simultaneous angiography and esophageal manometry during ergonovine provocation testing is easy to carry out and may enhance the diagnostic yield of the procedure. This technique avoids the risk of ergonovine infusion outside of a cardiac laboratory. We recommend the application of this technique in all patients who are candidates for ergonovine provocation testing during coronary angiography.

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Medical Practice Questions

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time medical practice questions from organizations with a legitimate interest in the information are referred to the Scientific Board by the Quality Care Review Commission of the California Medical Association. The opinions offered are based on training, experience and literature reviewed by specialists. These opinions are, however, informational only and should not be interpreted as directives, instructions or policy statements.

Endothelial Cell Counts

QUESTION:

Are endothelial cell counts performed by ophthalmologists medically necessary?

OPINION:

In the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Ophthalmology, specular endothelial photomicroscopy with endothelial cell counting is considered established medical practice. In selected cases where endothelial disease is suspected or when a patient has had a previous ocular surgical procedure or significant ocular trauma, preoperative endothelial cell counting is helpful in determining if an operation is indicated and, if so, the most appropriate surgical procedure.

The ophthalmic community agrees that endothelial cell photography is a useful procedure which is safe, enjoys wide clinical acceptability as a highly useful measure of corneal health, is highly useful in identifying those patients who would be at a greater risk for serious ocular disease with certain ocular procedures and is effective in differentiating among several important disease processes.